



STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 18TH DISTRICT

Brater Press Release

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Brater Introduces Bills to Reduce Dependence on Foreign Oil, Save Consumers Money

Brater: This will help reduce home heating costs

LANSING—State Senator Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) today introduced legislation that will help reduce energy consumption and save consumers by lowering natural gas use.

“High home heating costs have plagued Michigan families, and lowering energy use will lower the price,” said Brater. “This is a chance to harness technology to save consumers now and in the long run.”

The bill would establish state appliance and equipment energy efficiency standards for a number of appliances and products. Some of those items include DVD players, residential furnaces and boilers, walk-in refrigerators, portable electric spas and residential pool pumps. Over 20 years, the savings could reach \$2.5 billion.

By lowering natural gas use, the standards could help lead to lower energy prices. In a 2005 study, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy found that a 2 to 4% reduction in natural gas use can reduce natural gas prices by 20% or more in tight market conditions.

“These bills are a win-win-win,” said Mike Shriberg, Environment Michigan Director. “Increasing efficiency saves money, eliminates pollution, and helps wean our dependence on foreign oil. Consumers, the environment, and Michigan businesses will all benefit from better standards.”

At the federal level, many standards are outdated or non-existent. By adopting new standards, Michigan would bring its regulations in line with eight other states who have already adopted energy efficiency requirements for common products.

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State Senator Brater represents Senate District 18 which includes the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Chelsea, the Villages of Barton Hills and Dexter, and the following townships: Ann Arbor, Augusta, Dexter, Freedom, Lima, Lyndon, Northfield, Salem, Scio, Sharon, Superior, Sylvan, Webster and Ypsilanti. She is the minority vice chair of the natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism Committee.